

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board **BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE**

August 6, 2009

Meeting held at:

Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing address is:

Balboa Park Administration
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Don Liddell
Laurie Burgett
Jeri Dilno
Vicki Granowitz
Mick Hager
Andrew Kahng
David Kinney
Mike McDowell
Michael Singleton
Donald Steele (arr. 6:20 p.m.)
Rob Steppke

Members Absent

Staff Present

Stephen Hill
Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Bruce Martinez

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Granowitz called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: MOVED/SECONDED (SINGLETON/DILNO) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 6, 2009 MEETING WITH THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS:

Andrew Kahng requested that the following additional items be added to his committee member report:

The root cause of the map change is that per the Department's new July 1, 2009 Fee Schedule, the Recreation Council is to receive a 10% surcharge on Ground Use Fees for commercial, **fundraising and promotional** events, instead of only for commercial events. It was to avoid complaints about this 10% surcharge, which would range from \$10 for a small walk-a-thon to \$195 for the Rock and Roll Marathon, that the Department changed the Recreation Council's map.

The Recreation Council believes that the recreational element and recreational activity exist throughout Balboa Park and not just in two buildings plus dog parks. We hope to work with staff to find a more reasonable way to address the possibility of complaints about the new 10% surcharge on ground use fees for fundraising and promotional events. Change the second

sentence to read,” The Recreation Council now must return, and/or no longer collect in the future, approximately \$1,300.00 per year for Circus Vargas in the lower Inspiration parking lot, \$195.00 from the 2009 Rock and Roll Marathon, and various other pieces of income.”

CARRIED 9-0-1, ABSTENTION -STEPPEKE.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Diana Lorenz, a local resident noticed that a water fountain was taken out near the restroom near the Zoo. She asked that the Committee assist with replacing the water fountain as there are no other water fountains nearby. Staff will look into the matter to determine if the water fountain is part of the Zoo lease and if there is a plan to replace it.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Chairperson Vicki Granowitz reported on the following:

- Progress is being made towards setting up the next phase of the governance study. A new task force will be formed at end of August or beginning of September. Their first meeting will be in September.
- Save Our Heritage Organization hosted an open house when they assumed operation of the Marston House.
- Council Policy 660-33 identifies the public process for new parks. There is now an alternative process for times when there is not a recreation council near the new park.
- Ms. Granowitz, Don Liddell, David Kinney, and Leo Wilson met the Lieutenant Mark Hanten of the San Diego Police Department prior to the Gay Pride event to discuss street closures, bridge closures and parking. They requested that parking not be prohibited north of El Prado on 6th Ave and Balboa Drive and intermittent bridge closures. Last year, there were difficulties with the signage. This year, signs stating no parking after 1:00 p.m. were placed in those areas and later removed.
- The Atlas Missile will be presented to the Committee in September for information only. It will be an opportunity to ask questions of the applicant and to receive information requested.
- Craig Noel, better known as the “Bacca House Guy” at the Old Globe for the last 60 years, who started Junior Theater and a Spanish Language Theater is now in his 90’s and there is a desire to honor him for his contributions to regional performing arts.
- At the Park and Recreation Board meeting, there was discussion of a low income waiver for golf fees. A storm water presentation was made and information provided about a pilot project to slow down the storm water entering storm drains.
- Jennifer Ayala submitted her resignation today to be with her family. The quorum is now 6 members.

STAFF REPORT

Stephen Hill, City Council Third District representative reported the following:

- City Council is on legislative recess through August. It is a good time to touch base on issues.
- Last Tuesday at the final meeting of the Council, they considered an item to secure 102 million dollars in private financing of deferred maintenance projects throughout the City. Of those funds, over 7.1 million are for projects identified in Balboa Park to include parking lot resurfacing, HVAC upgrades at the Casa de Balboa and Museum of Man, Casa de Balboa and Spanish Village plumbing projects, elevator modernization at the Casa de Balboa, Casa del Prado, Old Globe Theatre, San Diego Air and Space Museum, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego Museum of Man and roofing projects at the Casa del Prado and Municipal Gym. Those projects will help to meet some of the deferred maintenance in Balboa Park.
- Council member Gloria was pleased to attend the Marston House re-opening and happy to see the house museum open. Mike Singleton requested assistance with removing the weeds along the guardrails on Hwy 163.

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Facilities and Special Events District Manager reported the following:

- She noted three upcoming events:
 - August 8 – 9, the Philippine Arts Festival at Park and Presidents lawn area.
 - August 16, America's finest City Half Marathon and 5 K – starts and finishes in the Palisades area and the Festival is at Park and Presidents lawn.
 - August 21 – 23, the Celebrate Dance Festival, produced by Eveoke Dance Theatre.
- The Department's Civic Dance Program's second week of dance camp will be held next week in the Recital Hall.
- The Twilight Concerts continue through August 27 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Recreation staff at Morley Field is operating a free summer lunch program from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. for children. The program is a partnership with San Diego Unified School District.

Bruce Martinez, Operations District Manager reported the following:

- He provided an update on Balboa Park's Trail system. The Morley Field gateway is nearing completion. The trails committee is currently working on the Golden Hill gateway. The fourth gateway will be installed at Park and President's Way and the fifth and final gateway will be installed at Marston Point.
- The Carillon Bells in the California Tower have been upgraded thanks to a generous grant from the Balboa Park Trust at the San Diego Foundation. The new equipment allows staff to program more songs, has digital features, utilizes a flash card memory backup system in case of a power outage and is more user friendly, allowing Park staff to perform the programming instead of a contractor.

- There are currently three grounds maintenance worker vacancies in the Central Mesa portion of the Park. Supervisors are moving staff around to mitigate the impacts. Peter, a GMW for the Lily Pond is retiring and will be greatly missed.
- The new ADA ramps at the Lily Pond have been installed as the first phase, totaling \$9,995.00 of the Lily Pond Landscape Renovation Project that is funded by the Balboa Park Trust at the San Diego Foundation.
- Balboa Park Operations will be purchasing and installing a weather station in the Park. This weather station will be tied into our computerized centrally controlled irrigation programs to provide up to date conditions which will assist staff with water management. Irrigation controller upgrading of the Central Mesa system is also a project that staff is working on to incorporate newer technology.

Bruce Martinez reported the following on behalf of Kathleen S. Hasenauer, Deputy Director:

- Jennifer Ayala, representing the Centre City Advisory Committee, has submitted her letter of resignation from the Balboa Park Committee. Jennifer is appreciative of the time that she was to serve on the Committee and is proud of her service and affiliation with the group.
- While Drought Response Level 2 Mandatory Restrictions have posed challenges for staff, they are adhering to the restrictions. Staff has exerted extraordinary efforts in fine tuning their irrigation systems and hand watering landscape areas on designated days to maintain plant health. With few exceptions, such as irrigation system checks, irrigation occurs between 6:00 PM and 10:00 AM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On November 1, irrigation will only be permitted one day a week.
- Scott Reese has been appointed Assistant Park and Recreation Director. His career with the City will begin on Monday, August 31. Scott has thirty-five years of municipal park and recreation experience. Scott has worked for the cities of San Francisco and San Jose.
- South Torrey Pines Golf Course has been named the number one municipal golf course in California by Golf Digest magazine. They were selected from a field of 179 municipal golf courses in California.
- The Department continues to focus on meeting the six strategic Performance Measures goals. The six measures are:
 - Instill Community Pride and Ownership
 - Invest in Environmentally-Sensitive Programs and Practices
 - Maintain Public Safety and Quality Park Maintenance
 - Provide High Quality Services
 - Deliver Innovative, Responsive Programs
 - Develop and Retain Committed, Valued Employees
- It has yet to be determined what the impacts of the FY 2010 State budget will have on the City.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Mick Hager reported that Balboa Park Cultural Partnership has new officers:

- Mick Hager – President
- Lou Spisto /Al Kidd – Vice President
- David Kahn – Treasurer
- Luanne Kanzawa –Secretary

The San Diego Museum of Art and Museum of Man are in the process of recruiting new directors.

The Balboa Park Learning Institute is planning programs and training. Paige Simpson is the Director.

Rory Ruppert of the Sustainability Program is coordinating the request for block grants.

David Kinney mentioned a fascinating exhibit at the Mingei International Museum, Sonabai.

San Diego is rated the best large city for dogs as listed in Dog Fancy Magazine.

Vicki Granowitz noted receipt of a memo from Stacey LoMedico, Park and Recreation Director regarding lease and special use permit requirements and the process for projects.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None.

Adoption

201. House of Hungary proposal to install Sándor Márai monument.

Susan Lowery-Mendoza reported that an application was filed with the Commission for Arts and Culture to install a monument plaque for Sándor Márai in Balboa Park. She noted that four locations were suggested and described the series of events that lead up to the plaque dedication last February. She reviewed her staff recommendation in which she found the plaque not consistent with Park and Recreation Board Policy No. 1002.

Peter Czipott, P.H.D., representing the House of Hungary provided a power point presentation outlining the life of Sándor Márai and his contributions to literature. He noted that Sándor Márai is one of three longtime San Diego resident authors with major international reputations. He wrote his last novel in San Diego while living across the street from the Park, walked in the Park and portrayed everyday life in the Park in his writings.

Hannu Mikkonen, President of House of Pacific Relations endorsed the House of Hungary's request for the monument.

Committee Comments:

- Regarding why it could not be placed within the House of Hungary and why the House is only open four hours per week.
- Supporting installation on the exterior cottage wall
- Acknowledging the celebration of culture
- Mr. Czipott's presentation was informative
- Accessibility may need to be considered
- His most important work was not written while residing in San Diego
- Plaques do not have enough history on them, they are not educational
- Remiss to mount on the exterior wall of the House of Hungary
- The City does not preclude the House from being open more than four hours per week

MOTION: IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED (KINNEY/HAGER) TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF THE PLAQUE, LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED BY PARK AND RECREATION STAFF AND THE HOUSE OF HUNGARY. THE LOCATION IS TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC AND MEET ALL APPLICABLE LAWS.

Discussion: It was noted that precedence is being set and the comment about his work being done elsewhere has weight.

THE MOTION FAILED (5,5,0)

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Special Event- Review of 2009 Union Tribune Magic Mile

Susan Lowery-Mendoza reviewed the issues of this event which occurred on May 2, 2009 on the west side of the Park. The majority of complaints were noise generated complaints. The event starting area was set-up one block to the north of where it was supposed to be. The speakers were set-up facing the condominium building, disturbing the residents. Leticia Battles of In Motion Events was asked to come back before the Committee to respond.

Leo Wilson of the Bankers Hill Park West Community Association and resident noted speakers on the West side of 6th Avenue have become a problem. At the Rock 'N' Roll Marathon on May 31, speakers were placed between the sidewalk and street at Park Laurel. A Race for the Cure on May 2 was also on the West side of the building at full volume, a health hazard. Placing speakers next to residential areas needs to be prohibited and it is in the boundary of Uptown when set-up is on the west side of the street.

Leticia Battles, event organizer noted that their vendor used an old set-up that

hadn't been used for 10 years. The speakers were a lane out from the building facing the park. They are looking at ways to minimize impacts and this will not happen again. There was discussion of the type of speakers, directional or omnidirectional.

402. Continue Review of Special Events

Ms. Granowitz distributed information from the two subcommittees. Ms. Burgett reviewed the recommendations. Ms. Granowitz noted the special events listing for the City. Items of discussion were:

- A complaint about golf cart running into someone at the Pride Festival.
- Cumulative impact to turf areas when the irrigation has been turned off for many days
- Subcommittees coming up with recommendations.
- No parking signage with letters too small, and the 72 hour notice causes confusion for three days with no one parking in those spaces.
- Social Networking has creating the need for contingency plans for higher attendance.
- Definition of conditions for which traffic controllers close roads, seems unnecessary at times.
- Need for a detour route to the Park.
- Invite someone from the Police Department to talk about how decisions are made regarding traffic.
- Park access issues caused by traffic controller's decisions made during events
- A procedure needed for notification of issues to park staff person on the weekends (duty ranger number).
- Complaints need to be documented, logged and recorded
- A set of problems should include a set of solutions

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. None

SUB - COMMITTEE REPORT

601. Land-Use and Policy – Ms. Burgett noted that the group met in June with the Friends of Golden Hill Park Grotto to get momentum behind refurbishing the fountain.

602. West Mesa Subcommittee of the Balboa Park Committee –None

COMMMTTEE MEMBER REPORT

Mr. Steppke reported that the planning committee decided to act as a committee of the whole in regards to the community plan update.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Granowitz adjourned the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, October 1, 2009
6:00 P.M.
Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room
2150 American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted

Susan Lowery-Mendoza
District Manager